

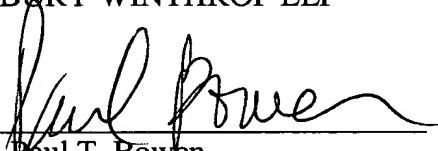
REMARKS

Claims 22-48 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-21 have been cancelled, claims 22-48 have been added, and the Abstract has been replaced.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-21 are cancelled.

Claims 22-48 are added as new claims.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract is changed as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A laser unit, which provides markings on a surface of a continuous strip [(S)] of metal, [comprises] includes a laser for generating a beam [(L)] of laser radiation. The laser unit further [comprises] includes a lens arrangement [(154)] for focusing the laser beam [(L)] onto the surface of the strip [(S)], and a beam scanner [(152, 153) which] that effects a controlled deflection of the laser beam [(L)] in two mutually perpendicular directions [(x, y)]. The beam scanner [(152, 153)] is arranged intermediate the laser and the lens arrangement [(154)]. The laser unit is operable to provide laser engraved markings at exact locations on the surface when the strip [(S)] intermittently is in an immobilized condition before being fed into a subsequent processing apparatus, which mechanically shapes the thus-marked strip [(S)] into marked articles to be included in cans.